## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : Not Assigned Applicants : Alfred Thomas

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Commissioner for Patents Mail Stop Patent Application P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/981,203, filed October 16, 2001. Prior to examining the subject application, please enter the following amendments.

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 3 of this paper.